

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 2, 2005

The Hon. Thad Cochran
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-128, the Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. Jerry Lewis
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
H-218, the Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Robert Byrd
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
311 Hart Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. David Obey
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Conferee,


We are writing to urge you to retain language in the final Supplemental Appropriations bill that prohibits the use of federal funds to produce covert prepackaged news. The amendment containing this language was passed in the Senate by a vote of 98-0.

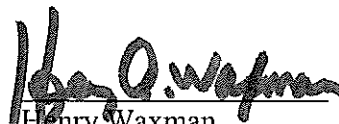
The Bush Administration's use of taxpayer dollars for covert propaganda to promote administration policies has become commonplace. In fact, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that both the Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of National Drug Control Policy's illegally produced video news releases which included actors posing as reporters. These prepackaged news stories did not reveal to the television audience that they were paid for and produced by the U.S. government.


Comptroller General David Walker wrote to all federal agencies on February 17th, reiterating the GAO finding that government-produced video news releases that conceal their funding sources violate the federal ban on covert propaganda. However, the Bush Administration has rejected this finding and has instructed agencies that they may continue using video news releases that do not disclose the source of the information.

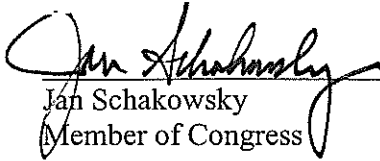
The amendment passed unanimously by the Senate will ensure that Americans know how their taxpayer dollars are being spent, and who is responsible for the messages they see on television. It is critical to ensuring accountability and transparency in government. We urge you to retain this provision in the final Supplemental Appropriations bill. Thank you for your consideration.

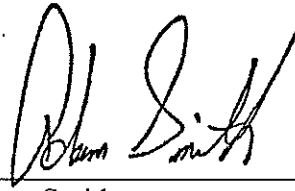
Sincerely,

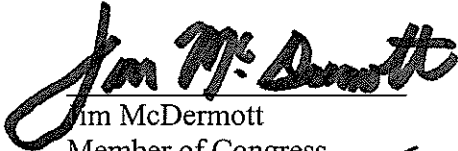

Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress

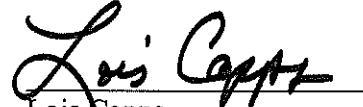

Henry Waxman
Member of Congress

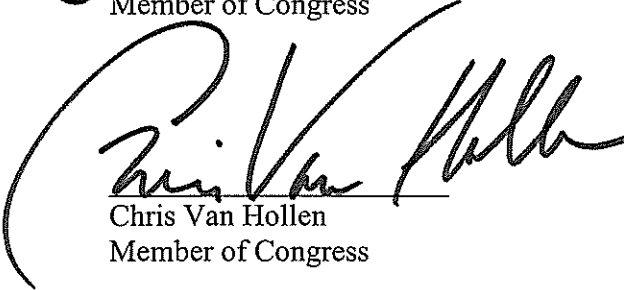

George Miller
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress


Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott
Member of Congress

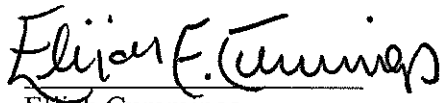

Lois Capps
Member of Congress

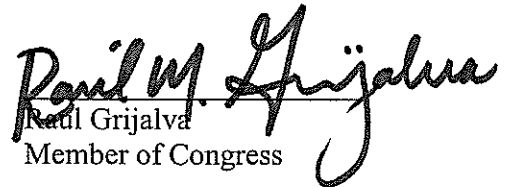

Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress

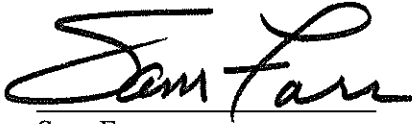

Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress

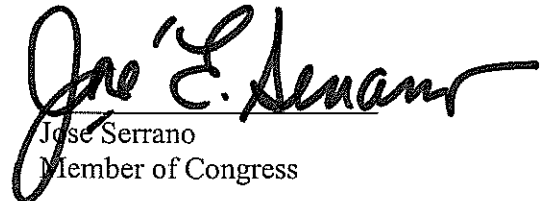

Gary Ackerman
Member of Congress

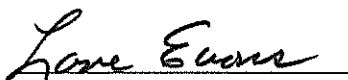

James Oberstar
Member of Congress

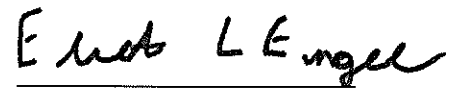

Elijah Cummings
Member of Congress


Raul Grijalva
Member of Congress


Sam Farr
Member of Congress

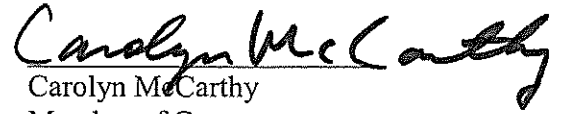

Jose Serrano
Member of Congress


Lane Evans
Member of Congress

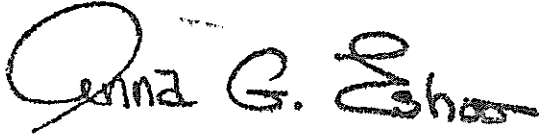

Eliot Engel
Member of Congress



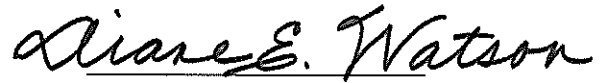
Bernie Sanders
Member of Congress



Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress



Anna Eshoo
Member of Congress



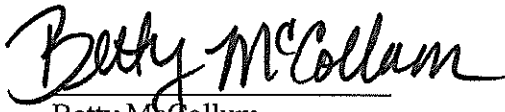
Diane Watson
Member of Congress



Vic Snyder
Member of Congress



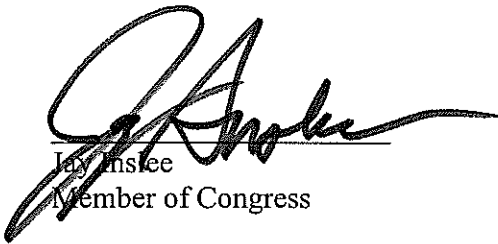
Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



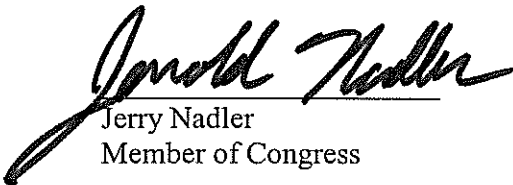
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Jay Byrnie
Member of Congress



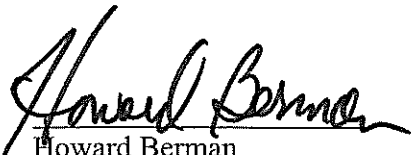
Pete Stark
Member of Congress



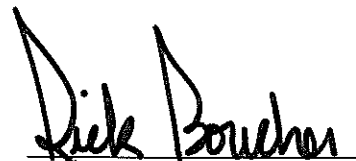
Jerry Nadler
Member of Congress



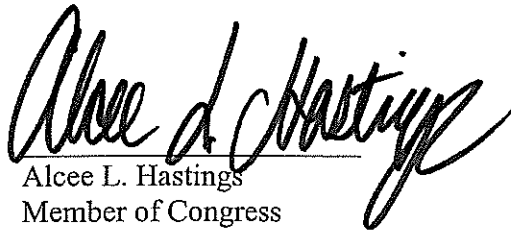
Louise Slaughter
Member of Congress



Howard Berman
Member of Congress

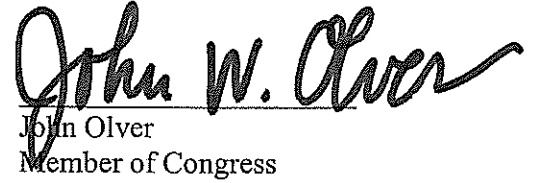



Rick Boucher
Member of Congress

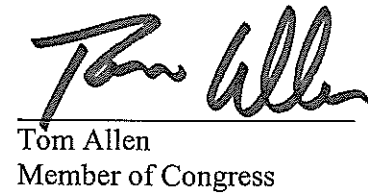

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

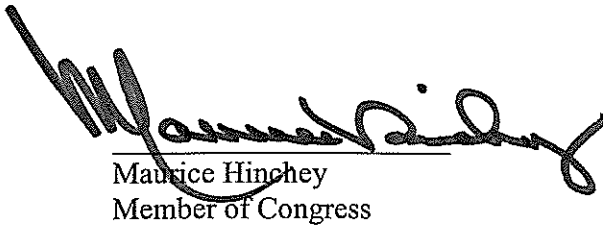

Rahm Emanuel
Member of Congress

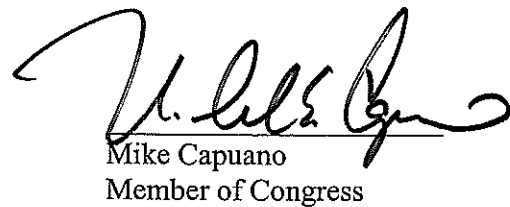

Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress


John Olver
Member of Congress

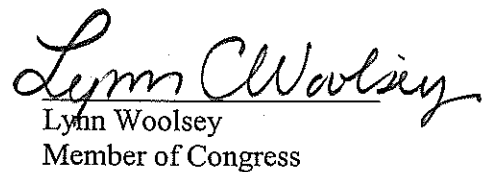

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

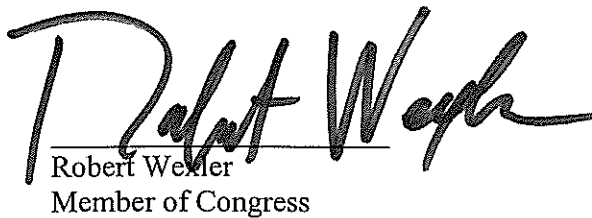

Tom Allen
Member of Congress

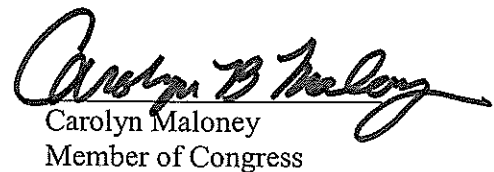

Maurice Hinchey
Member of Congress

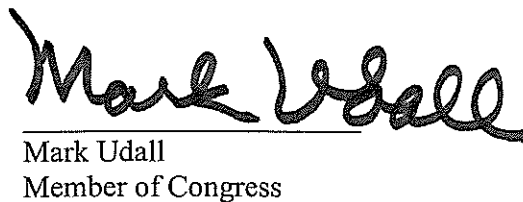

Mike Capuano
Member of Congress

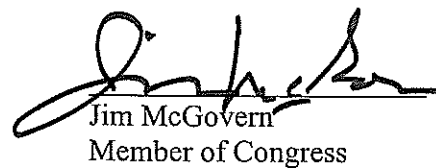

Patrick Kennedy
Member of Congress

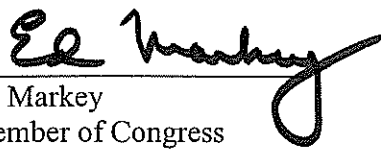

Lynn Woolsey
Member of Congress

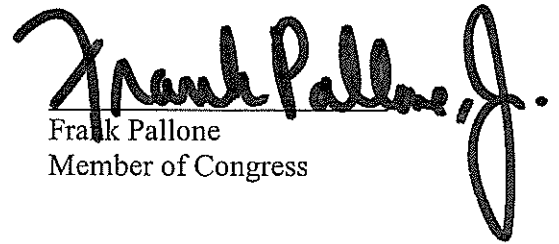

Robert Wexler
Member of Congress


Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress



Mark Udall
Member of Congress



Jim McGovern
Member of Congress

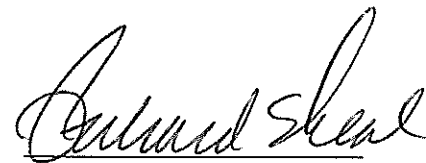

Ed Markey
Member of Congress


Frank Pallone
Member of Congress

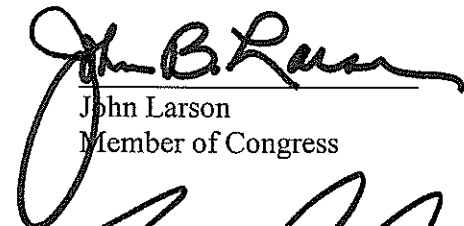

Barney Frank
Member of Congress


Ed Case
Member of Congress



Sherrod Brown
Member of Congress


Richard Neal
Member of Congress


Ike Skelton
Member of Congress


John Larson
Member of Congress


Bill Pascrell
Member of Congress


Major R. Owens
Member of Congress